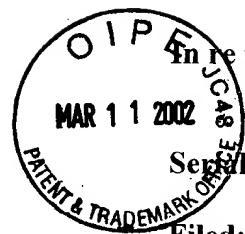


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re the Patent Application of:
Armirol et al

Serial No.: 09/473,012

Filed: October 1, 1999

**Title: ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP
OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS**

: Group Art Unit: 2834

:

: Examiner: Tran Nguyen

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: Dated: March 11, 2002

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Hawkins
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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Box RCE
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated **October 10, 2001**, the shortened statutory period for response having expired on **January 10, 2002**. Accordingly, a petition for an appropriate extension of time and the corresponding fee is attached hereto. The Amendment accompanies a request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Three Times Amended) An alternator for a vehicle, comprising

two pole pieces having mutually interlaced poles, and

a magnet, the poles including grooves profiled substantially axially along peripheral sides of each pole body, wherein the grooves engage the magnet between two interlaced poles, the groove profile preventing the magnet from escaping perpendicularly from the grooves, and

a strip interposed between a face of the magnet and a first portion of at least one of the grooves, the strip being produced from a nonmagnetic material which is less hard than the magnet.